

**Rule 128**  
**Resale & Exemption Certificates**  
**Discussion Draft 1**

**128. CERTIFICATES FOR RESALE AND OTHER EXEMPTION CLAIMS (RULE 128).**

[Section 63-3622, Idaho Code.](#)

**01. In General.** This rule applies to proper documentation for exempt purchases of tangible personal property for resale and all other exemption claims for taxable transactions enumerated in Section 63-3612, Idaho Code. All forms approved by this rule may be reproduced. (3-6-00)

**02. Burden of Proof.** All sales made within Idaho are presumed to be subject to sales tax unless the seller obtains from the purchaser a properly executed resale or exemption certificate. If the seller does not have an exemption certificate on file it will have the burden of proving that a sale is not subject to tax. The seller may overcome the presumption by establishing the facts giving rise to the exemption. If the seller obtains a valid certificate from the purchaser, the seller need not collect sales or use taxes unless the sale of the tangible personal property or the transaction in question is taxable to the purchaser as a matter of law in the particular instance claimed on the certificate. (3-4-10)

**03. Qualified Buyers for Purposes Other Than Resale.** Producers, certain contractors and exempt buyers may claim an exemption from paying sales tax on the purchase of goods and other taxable transactions by qualifying under one (1) or more of the provisions of Sections 63-3622A through 63-3622UU, Idaho Code, completing, and providing the required form to the seller. (3-4-10)

**04. Qualified Buyers for Purposes of Resale.** The resale exemption may be claimed by the following purchasers when buying goods for resale: (3-6-00)

**a.** A retailer or wholesaler doing business in Idaho who holds a current and valid Idaho seller's permit number. (4-4-13)

**b.** A wholesaler who makes no retail sales and who is not required to hold an Idaho seller's permit number. (3-6-00)

**c.** An out-of-state retailer who makes not more than two (2) sales in Idaho in any twelve (12) month period and is not required to hold an Idaho seller's permit number. (3-6-00)

**05. Description and Proper Execution of Approved Forms.** In order to be valid, all forms must be legible and include a date, the purchaser's name, signature, title, and address. If the purchaser has a federally issued Employer Identification Number (EIN), the purchaser must also include that EIN on the form. If the purchaser does not have an EIN, the form must contain the purchaser's driver's license number and the state of issue. The purchaser must comply with any additional requirements provided in these rules. (4-4-13)

**a.** To claim a resale exemption, Form ST-101, Sales Tax Resale and Exemption Certificate, must be completed, except that multi-state taxpayers may use the Uniform Sales and

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Use Tax Certificate - Multi-jurisdiction. The resale certificates approved by this rule may only be taken from a purchaser described in Subsection 128.04. The reason for, and the nature of, the claimed exemption must be included on the form as well as the primary nature of business and the type of products sold, leased or rented by the purchaser. An Idaho registered retailer must include its seller's permit number. A purchaser need not identify every type of product it sells but must indicate the general character of the property it sells, rents or leases. (4-4-13)

i. Example. A grocery store that in addition to groceries sells miscellaneous items such as cosmetics, magazines, and school supplies. The store would provide its resale number and describe the primary nature of its business as selling groceries. It could buy cosmetics, magazines, and school supplies for resale and it does not need to list those items on the resale certificate. It only needs to indicate the general character of the property it sells as groceries. (3-4-10)

ii. Example. A lawn and garden store occasionally sells barbecue grills as promotional items. Even though it describes lawn and garden items as the types of products it sells, it can buy the grills for resale. (4-4-13)

iii. Example. A grocery store describes the primary nature of its business as selling groceries. It then buys an automobile for resale. The grocery store should provide the automobile seller a resale certificate for this transaction and identify its primary nature of its business as grocery and indicate it is specifically buying the automobile for resale. (3-4-10)

**b.** Retailers of food products who have been granted records reduction authority by the State Tax Commission may accept Sales Tax Exemption Claim Form-Grocer, Form ST-111, from a purchaser if the retailer has a properly executed certificate (Form ST-101, ST-103, or ST-104) on file from the purchaser. Form ST-111 must include the seller's permit number (if applicable), the signature of the individual claiming the exemption, and, the total purchase price and general nature of the nontaxable products sold. (3-6-00)

**c.** Sales Tax Exemption Claim for Cash Purchases by Governmental Agencies, Form ST-104G, may be completed only by federal, Idaho State, and local government agencies making cash purchases and must be furnished to the vendor at the time of sale. Each transaction requires a newly executed form signed by the agency's purchasing agent and the employee/purchaser. Blank forms will be furnished to government agencies by the State Tax Commission upon request. The form cannot be used for lodging and meals bought by a traveling government employee nor for any other reasons enumerated on the form. (3-6-00)

**d.** Sales Tax Exemption on Lodging Accommodations Claimed by Government Employees Using Credit Card Payment, Form ST-104-HM, applies when a credit card company will directly bill to and be paid by a federal, Idaho State, or local government agency employer. It does not apply to credit card payments that are paid by the employee who is later reimbursed by the government agency employer. Each lodging transaction requires a newly executed form signed by the employee/purchaser. (3-6-00)

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e. The Diplomatic Tax Exemption Program of the United States Government grants immunity from state taxes to diplomats from certain foreign countries. A federal tax exemption card issued by the U.S. Department of State bears a photograph of the holder, a federal tax exemption number, and specific instructions as to the extent of the exemption granted to the diplomat. Additional information is provided in Rule 098 of these rules. (3-6-00)

f. Sales Tax Exemption Certificate – Vehicle/Vessel, Form ST-104-MV, must be completed by a purchaser claiming an exemption from tax under Section 63-3622R, Idaho Code, when purchasing a qualifying motor vehicle or trailer. To qualify for the exemption, all purchasers of the vehicle or vessel must be nonresidents of Idaho. (3-6-00)(    )

g. ~~Motor Vehicle~~ Sales Tax Exemption Certificate – Transfer Affidavit, Form ST-133, must be completed when claiming an exemption from tax when selling a motor vehicle to a relative under the exemption provided by Section 63-3622K, Idaho Code, when selling a motor vehicle, boat or RV to a member of an American Indian Tribe within the boundaries of an American Indian reservation, or when making a gift of a motor vehicle, boat or RV. (4-4-13)(    )

h. ~~Truck-Camper, Transport-Trailer, and Untitled Boat Certificate~~ Occasional Sale Exemption Claim – Office Trailer Transport Trailer, Form ST-108TR, is required by any person ~~titling, registering, or licensing certain vehicles on which sales tax was not paid~~ claiming the occasional sale exemption on the purchase of a transport trailer or an office trailer. ~~Of those vehicles mentioned on the form, only the sale of a transport trailer or an office trailer may qualify for an occasional sale exemption, as described in Rule 099 of these rules, and the exemption requires the proper execution of ST-108 to make the claim.~~ The seller must complete the seller's statement section in order for the buyer to claim the occasional sale exemption. (3-15-02)(    )

i. Sales Tax Exemption Certificate - Capital Asset Transfer Affidavit, Form ST-133CATS, is required under the provisions of Section 63-3622K, Idaho Code, when claiming an exemption from tax on the sale of certain vehicles which are included in the bulk sale of a business' assets when the new owner will continue to operate the business in a like manner; for qualifying transfers of certain capital assets through sale, lease or rental; and, for the transfer of vehicles to and from a business or between qualifying businesses when there is no change other than owners' equity. (3-6-00)

j. Information on the resale certificate. The resale certificate shall bear the name and address of the purchaser, the name and address of the seller, shall be signed and dated by the purchaser or his agent, shall indicate the number of the permit issued to the purchaser, or that the purchaser is an out-of-state retailer, and shall indicate the general character of the tangible personal property sold by the purchaser in the regular course of business. By executing the resale certificate, the buyer is certifying that the specific property being purchased is being purchased for resale. (3-4-10)

**06. Seller's Responsibility -- Purchases for Resale.** A seller is not liable for the collection of sales tax on items sold to a customer from whom the seller has obtained a properly

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executed Sales Tax Resale and Exemption Certificate, Form ST-101, if the customer intends to resell the items in the regular course of business. The seller has no duty or obligation to collect sales or use taxes in regard to any sales transaction so documented unless the sale fits into the narrow classification of sales that can be considered to be taxable as a matter of law in the particular instance claimed on the resale certificate. If the particular item being purchased for resale does not commonly match the description of the general character of the tangible personal property as identified on the resale certificate, then it is presumed that the sale is taxable as a matter of law; however, if the seller questions the purchaser and the purchaser provides a new certificate specifically identifying the property in question as being purchased for resale, then the seller can accept the certificate and is relieved of any further responsibility. (3-4-10)

**a.** Example: A restaurant operator completes an ST-101 for his supplier. He indicates the general character of the products he sells as food and beverages. The restaurant operator purchases sugar and flour from the supplier. The supplier is not liable for the collection of the sales tax as the character of the goods is that which the restaurant operator will resell in the regular course of business. The resale claim made by the restaurant operator is available as a matter of law. (3-6-00)

**b.** Example: The same restaurant operator later purchases dish towels and dish washing soap. The supplier must collect the tax. The general character of the goods are not those sold by a restaurant in the normal course of business. The exemption claimed by the restaurant is not available as a matter of law. However, if the restaurant operator identifies cleaning supplies as one of the types of items it resells, either on the original certificate or on a new certificate, then the supplier need not collect the tax. (3-4-10)

**c.** Example: An appliance store buys appliances and some furniture for resale from a supplier. The appliance store has a resale certificate on file with the supplier. The supplier also sells warehouse equipment as part of its business. The appliance store buys a forklift from the supplier. The supplier should charge tax. However, if the furniture store provides a new certificate indicating it will sell the forklift, the supplier has no duty or obligation to collect the tax. Without the new certificate, an objectively reasonable person would not assume a furniture store sells forklifts. Additionally, the furniture store is only buying one (1) forklift and this fact indicates to the supplier that it is not buying the forklift for resale. (3-4-10)

**07. Seller's Responsibility -- Purchases Claimed Exempt from Sales Tax for Reasons Other Than Resale.** A seller is not liable for the collection of sales tax on items sold to a customer from whom a properly executed Sales Tax Resale and Exemption Certificate, Form ST-101, has been received if the nature of the exemption claimed is available to the purchaser as a matter of law or the nature of the goods purchased qualify for the particular exemption claimed on the certificate. (3-4-10)

**a.** A retailer must collect tax on the sale of any goods that are specifically excluded from an exemption as a matter of law. For example, a purchaser claiming the production exemption provided by Section 63-3622D, Idaho Code, may not claim an exemption on the sale of items that are specifically excluded from the exemption as a matter of law, such as: (3-6-00)

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~~i. Hand tools with a unit price not in excess of one hundred dollars (\$100);~~  
~~(3-6-00)( )~~

ii. Maintenance and janitorial equipment and supplies; (3-6-00)

iii. Office equipment and supplies; (3-6-00)

~~iv~~ii. Selling and distribution equipment and supplies; (3-6-00)

~~iv~~. Property used in transportation activities; (3-6-00)

vi. Equipment or other property used to make repairs; (3-6-00)

vii. Tangible personal property which becomes a component of any real property or any improvement or fixture thereto; (3-6-00)

viii. Licensed motor vehicles; (3-6-00)

~~viii~~. Aircraft; and (3-6-00)

~~ix~~. Recreational vehicles. (3-6-00)

**b.** Example: A farmer completes an ST-101 claiming a production exemption on the purchase of ~~a fifteen dollar (\$15) hammer~~ toilet bowl cleaner and a case of motor oil. The retailer must collect the sales tax on the sale of the ~~hammer~~ toilet bowl cleaner, but is not liable for the collection of the sales tax on the sale of the motor oil. The retailer cannot rely on the exemption certificate when selling the ~~hammer~~ toilet bowl cleaner because, as a matter of law, the sale of ~~hand tools with a unit price of one hundred dollars (\$100) or less~~ janitorial supplies is excluded from the production exemption. But the retailer can rely on the exemption certificate when selling goods, such as the motor oil, which the farmer could put to either a nontaxable use (e.g., oil for a tractor), or a taxable use (e.g., oil for a licensed pickup truck). ~~(4-11-06)~~( )

~~**e.** Additionally, when a retailer sells merchandise which qualifies for the production exemption in Section 63-3622D, Idaho Code, and which may be used for either a taxable or a nontaxable purpose, such as the sale of a battery which is taxable when used in a car and not taxable when used in a farm tractor, the retailer is relieved of the liability for and responsibility of collecting the sales tax if the purchaser provides a description on the exemption certificate of the intended nontaxable use of the item.~~  
~~(3-6-00)~~

**d.** A retailer cannot rely on an exemption certificate obtained from a purchaser when the law does not provide an exemption from the tax for the purchaser, such as a nonprofit organization not specifically exempted by the sales tax law or a governmental agency of another state. (3-6-00)

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**e.** Nor can a retailer rely on an exemption certificate when the limited language of the law pertaining to the exemption claimed excludes all but certain goods from the exemption. For example, certain contractors can execute an ST-101 to purchase construction materials for specific jobs in non-taxing states claiming an exemption from tax under Section 63-3622B, Idaho Code, and Rule 012 of these rules. The retailer must collect tax on any goods that are not to be incorporated into the real property, such as parts for construction equipment and tools. (3-6-00)

**f.** In lieu of Form ST-101, retailers, when selling property that the purchaser claims is entitled to the production exemption, may stamp or imprint on the face of their sales invoices, or purchasers may stamp or imprint on the face of their purchase orders, a certificate containing the following language: (3-4-10)

I certify that the property which I have here purchased will be used by me directly and primarily in the process of producing tangible personal property by mining, manufacturing, processing, fabricating, or farming, or as a repair part for equipment used primarily as described above.

This tax exemption statement qualifies if this statement is signed by the purchaser and the name, address, and nature of business of the purchaser is shown on the invoice.

Any person who signs this certification with the intention of evading payment of tax is guilty of a misdemeanor.

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NATURE OF BUSINESS

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BUYER'S SIGNATURE

The signature on this certificate must be in addition to any other signature required on the invoice. If no Form ST-101 is on file with the vendor, then each exempt sale must be documented as described in this Subsection. (3-4-10)

**g.** Information on the exemption certificate. An exemption certificate shall show the purchaser's name and address, business name and address, and be signed and dated by the purchaser. The purchaser shall also provide on the certificate the specific exemption being claimed and, if the production exemption is being claimed, a list of the products the purchaser produces. If the purchaser is claiming the contractor exemption, the purchaser must identify the invoice, purchase order, or job number to which the claim applies, the city and state where the job is located, and the name of the project owner. If the purchaser is claiming an exemption as an American Indian, then the purchaser must provide a valid Tribal I.D. number. By signing the exemption certificate, the purchaser is certifying that the purchase qualifies for an exemption from tax. (4-4-13)

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**08. Purchaser's Responsibility.** A purchaser has the responsibility to properly complete a certificate and ensure that tax is charged on all taxable purchases. If the purchaser properly provides a certificate and normally makes exempt purchases, he nevertheless must ensure that tax is paid when a taxable purchase is made. If the seller does not charge the tax on a taxable purchase the purchaser must either notify the seller to correct the billing and then pay the sales tax to the seller, or accrue and remit use tax on the transaction. If the purchaser intentionally or repeatedly makes purchases, claiming they are exempt, when in fact they are not exempt, and the purchaser fails to remit use tax, a penalty can be imposed in addition to the use tax. The penalty amount that may be asserted against the purchaser is five percent (5%) of the sales price or two hundred dollars (\$200), whichever is greater. The penalty will be asserted by the Commission as a Notice of Deficiency but the purchaser may have the penalty abated when he can establish that there were reasonable grounds for believing that the purchase was properly exempt from tax. In addition, if the purchaser gives a resale or exemption certificate with the intention of evading payment of the tax, the purchaser may be charged with a criminal misdemeanor and could be punished by a fine not exceeding one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or imprisonment for not more than one (1) year, or by both a fine and imprisonment. (3-4-10)

**a.** Example: A garden supply store sells, among other things, soil and wood chips in large quantities. It buys a loader to use in its business to load items into customers' trucks. When buying the loader, the garden supply store gives a resale certificate to the seller indicating it intends to resell the loader. However, upon purchase the loader is capitalized on the books of the garden supply store. The Commission could impose a penalty equal to five percent (5%) of the purchase price of the loader against the garden supply store. This penalty is in addition to the use tax that is due. The individual who executed the certificate, or authorized the execution, on behalf of the garden supply store, if done with intent to evade payment of the use tax, could be criminally charged with a misdemeanor. (3-4-10)

**b.** Example: A restaurant buys food for resale from a supplier. It can properly give a resale certificate to the supplier. Since it buys food on a continuing basis the supplier keeps a certificate on file. If the restaurant buys cleaning supplies for its own consumption, the supplier should charge sales tax. If it fails to charge tax, the restaurant should notify the supplier to correct the billing and collect the sales tax. If the restaurant fails to pay sales or use tax on more than one purchase, then, under Section 63-3624, Idaho Code, the Commission can assert a use tax and a penalty equal to five percent (5%) of the purchase price or two hundred dollars (\$200), whichever is greater, against the restaurant. (3-4-10)

**09. Timely Acceptance of Certificates.** A seller may accept a certificate from a purchaser prior to the time of sale, at the time of sale, or at any reasonable time after the sale to establish the exemption claim, with the exception of Forms ST-104-HM and ST-104G which must be provided at the time of sale. However, if no approved certificate is obtained from the purchaser in the manner provided or permitted by this rule, the sale is presumed to be taxable. (3-6-00)

**a.** Certificates obtained by a seller at a time subsequent to, but not within a

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reasonable time after, the time of sale will be considered by the State Tax Commission in conjunction with all other evidence available to determine whether or not the seller has established that a sales tax transaction is exempt from tax. (3-4-10)

**b.** Example: A retailer sells goods to a customer without charging the sales tax but does not obtain an ST-101 from the customer. Instead, the customer writes his seller's permit number on the invoice when he signs for the goods. The retailer is later audited by the State Tax Commission and fails in an attempt to obtain a certificate from his customer. The retailer argues that the seller's permit number written on the invoice is evidence that the customer purchased the goods for resale. However the number by itself does not establish that the customer bought the goods for resale. The retailer is liable for the tax on the sale. (3-4-10)

**c.** Example: A retailer sells a truck load of hay to a customer, does not charge sales tax on the transaction, and fails to obtain an ST-101. The retailer is later audited by the State Tax Commission and is unable to obtain an ST-101 from the customer. The retailer argues that hay is a farm supply and this alone should establish that the sale is exempt. However, the customer may be in a business which does not qualify for the farming production exemption, such as racing or showing horses. Or, the customer may be using the hay for a nonbusiness purpose, such as raising animals for his own consumption. The retailer is liable for the tax on the sale. (3-4-10)

**d.** When a Notice of Deficiency Determination has been issued to a seller by the State Tax Commission and the seller petitions for redetermination as provided by Rule 121 of these rules, he may submit certificates obtained from his customers as evidence of exemption claims, but only if the certificates are presented to the State Tax Commission within ninety (90) days of the date of the Notice of Deficiency Determination. (3-6-00)